This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Canceled)

2.   (Currently Amended)   A method for Short Message Services (SMS) provisioning in a system including a Home Location Register (HLR), a Message Center (MC), a Mobile Switching Center (MSC), ~~including a Mobile Switching Center point code scheme~~, comprising the steps of:

storing location data for said MSC in said HLR, wherein said location data includes at least one Mobile Switching Center Identification Number (MSCIN) parameter and an SMS address common point code;

receiving a request from said MC to deliver a SMS message to said MSC;

determining whether the MC and the MSC share the same a~~MC~~ point code scheme; and ~~for said MC~~;

~~comparing the MC point code scheme with the MSC point code scheme~~;

selectively populating a SMS request response (smsreq) relative to said SMS message with one of the SMS address [[MSC]] point code ~~scheme~~ if the MSC and MC share the same point code schemes or ~~are the same~~;

~~otherwise,~~ populating said smsreq ~~SMS message~~ with the MSCIN parameter if the MSC and MC do not share the same point code scheme.~~; and~~

~~delivering said SMS message from said MC to said MSC.~~

3.   (Canceled)

4.   (Original)   The method of Claim 2, wherein the MSCIN parameter is in Global Title Address (GTA) format.

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5.   (Original)   The method of Claim 4, wherein said GTA format uses an E.212 identifier.

6.   (Original)   The method of Claim 4, wherein said GTA format uses an E.164 identifier.

7.   (Original)   The method of Claim 4, wherein said GTA format uses a combination of said E.212 and E.164 identifiers.

8.   (Currently Amended)   The method of Claim 2 [[1]], wherein said HLR has a database including at least one country code and at least one corresponding point code scheme.

9.   (Original)   The method of Claim 8, wherein said point code scheme is specified according to American National Standards Institute (ANSI) standard-41.

10.   (Original)   The method of Claim 8, wherein said point code scheme is specified according to International Telecommunication Union (ITU) standard Q.700.

11.   (Original)   The method of Claim 8, wherein the step of comparing the MC point code scheme with the MSC point code scheme occurs in said database in said HLR.

12.   (Currently Amended)   The method of Claim 2 [[1]], wherein the step of determining the MC point code scheme further includes the step of determining a nationality of the MC.

13 – 14.   (Canceled)

15.   (New) A home location register (HLR) comprising:

a database for storing location data for a Mobile Switching center (MSC) in said HLR, wherein said location data includes at least one Mobile Switching Center Identification Number (MSCIN) parameter and a Short Message Services (SMS) address common point code;

receiver means for receiving a request from said MC to deliver a SMS message to said MSC;

means for determining whether the MC and the MSC share the same point code scheme; and

means for selectively populating a SMS request response (smsreq) relative to said SMS message with one of the SMS address point code if the MSC and MC share the same point code schemes or

populating said smsreq with the MSCIN parameter if the MSC and MC do not share the same point code scheme